

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
COMMERCE**

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JEFF PATTISON**, on January 29, 2003 at
8 A.M., in Room 317-C Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Jeff Pattison, Chairman (R)
Sen. Bill Tash, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Edward Butcher (R)
Rep. John Musgrove (D)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Rep. Rick Ripley (R)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Gary Hamel, Legislative Branch
Elaine Olsen, Committee Secretary
Doug Schmitz, OBPP
Kelly Gorin, OBPP

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: Fish Wildlife and Parks Overview,
1/29/2003

Executive Action: None.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 10}

CHAIRMAN PATTISON introduced former SEN. ED SMITH from Dagmar. Former SEN. SMITH served in the Montana Legislature for 20 years. For 18 years he served on the House and Senate Fish and Game Committee, 14 years on the Senate Finance and Claims Committee, and he was on the Appropriations Subcommittee for Natural Resources for 14 years.

Ed Smith said he wanted to address the Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement (UGBHE) Program, legislation that he had sponsored in the Montana Legislature in 1987. He stated that he believed Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) had failed to follow the intent of the law and the ARM rules. He said he had been on the Montana Highway Commission for 13 years, and that he felt very strongly that fees collected from the highway users in gross vehicle fees and gas taxes, and the expenditure of those funds, should come under close scrutiny by the legislature.

Ed Smith said the intent of the 1987 legislation was to allow pheasants to be raised and released into the habitat created by the Federal Conservation Reserve Program. In 1989 FWP convinced the legislature to add habitat acquisition to the law. He said his concern is that a lot of habitat is being established, but no birds are available to make use of it.

Ed Smith said that the law states the funds generated by the increase in the license fees must be used exclusively by the Department to preserve and enhance the upland game bird population. He said that when he attempted to acquire more details on the efforts by FWP to change the ARM rules relating to the UGBHE program, he was "stonewalled."

Ed Smith said that more recently he had asked Director Jeff Hagener, FWP, how much money had been spent on the program from 1988 up to and including July 1, 2001. The Department replied that expenditures totaled about \$8 million.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10 - 20}

Ed Smith said that he believed the information he received was incomplete or incorrect. He then provided details on spending on projects in the various FWP administrative regions. Landowners were paid up-front for 15 years of participation in the project but it is doubtful that all the landowners honored the contracts for the duration. In 2000, 1,821 pheasants were released in Montana at a cost of \$5,453; \$148,000 was spent on habitat

programs; \$55,000 was spent on administrative costs; and overhead was \$21,000.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 30}

Ed Smith stated that as a result of his efforts and his communications with FWP and the Environmental Quality Council (EQC), the Legislative auditor reviewed the UGBHE program. A total of \$353,000 was paid to one landowner who also received \$50,000 for participation in the Block Management Program. **Ed Smith** said the landowner withdrew from the Block Management Program before the contract expired.

EXHIBIT(jnh19a01)

Ed Smith addressed highlights of the audit which stated that FWP had inadequate documentation of the funds expended. Payment was made to the Russell family on a grazing management project which includes fencing, a stock tank and piping. The only documentation for payment was a hand-written note.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 10}

Ed Smith provided details on other examples from the audit illustrating his concern that the UGBHE program contracts were not properly written, monitored or honored.

SEN. BUTCHER asked if the contracts were for UGBHE program. **Ed Smith** stated that the contract stated the money was to be used exclusively to preserve and enhance the upland game bird population.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 10 - 20}

Ed Smith stated that he felt the intention of the 1987 legislation had not been honored by the Department. **SEN. TASH** said the detailed description of the problems provided by Ed Smith would generate detailed questions from the Committee. The Department would then be able to respond.

Ed Smith provided additional details on funds expended by the Department to landowners who did not spend the funds in the manner intended. **SEN. TASH** said he had been made aware of Ed Smith's concern in a previous committee hearing. He said he was confident that the Committee would have detailed questions for the Department when the decisions packages (DP) were reviewed.

SEN. BUTCHER asked Ed Smith to provide a handout which emphasized the main points of his concern. **SEN. NELSON** stated that she felt there was no doubt that the program had been mismanaged. Her question is what can the Committee do about it.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 27}

REP. RIPLEY said that he felt the Department could respond to the concerns when the DPs were reviewed.

Ed Smith said that three pieces of legislation were to be introduced this session directed at correcting the problems associated with the UGBHE program. He thanked the Committee for their time and stated that he would be available to provide additional assistance to the Committee. **CHAIRMAN PATTISON** thanked Ed Smith for all of his time and effort to bring the details to the Committee.

SEN. TASH asked Director Hagener if he wanted to address some of the points that Ed Smith had made.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 10}

Jeff Hagener, Director, FWP, said that many of the issues had been addressed repeatedly. An audit and a follow-up audit have been completed. The follow-up audit indicates that the Department has addressed all the recommendations that were raised. The Department is working with members of the legislature to address improving the program.

SEN. BUTCHER asked for the status of the Block Management contract which was abandoned before the 15-year contract had expired. **Director Hagener** said that no Block Management had been in place on the property mentioned. The landowner still allowed public hunting of upland game birds.

SEN. NELSON said that the program did have problems at the beginning and that the intent of SB304 last session. **SEN. BUTCHER** said that with the amount of money at issue, fraud should be looked into. **CHAIRMAN PATTISON** said details on the issue were available from the Legislative Auditor.

Ed Smith said he had a sheet which established that over a period of ten years, 50 birds were taken on the Russell Ranches. In 15 years FWP had expended \$10,000 in upland game bird funds and Pittman Robinson funds.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10 - 20}

Don Childress, Administrator, Wildlife Division, FWP, began an overview of the DP for the Wildlife Division.

DP514

Don Childress said the DP addressed administrative costs of the UGBHE program. Fifteen percent of the overall annual income is allowed for administrative costs. The request is for a base adjustment of \$14,000 for each year of the biennium.

DP515

Don Childress stated that DP515 was for the Habitat Trust operations and maintenance. A percentage of the dollars that come into the fund plus some of the interest are used for weed control, fence maintenance and monitoring wildlife management and conservation easement areas.

DP516

Don Childress stated that DP516 was a request for funding one-time-only for equipment including a check station trailer, a weed sprayer and a mower. The building being used as a check station in Region 1 is no longer available.

DP518

Don Childress said the request was for funding for the printing of regulations. The regulations are 112 pages in length, and they include a lot of information such as descriptions of game animals. The increased in cost is a result of the number of copies printed and the number of total pages.

SEN. BUTCHER said he feels there is an "idiocy level" and the Department should not have to be defining in expensive print, the difference between a mule deer and a whitetail. He said, "You arrest the SOB that shoots the wrong one and you'll be done with it."

REP. RIPLEY asked if the \$35,000 per year was the amount of the increase. **Don Childress** said that was correct. The contracts are let for three years with an opportunity to negotiate on an annual basis.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 30}

CHAIRMAN PATTISON asked who was printing the regulations. **Don Childress** said that the magnitude and volume of printing was too great for the Department print shop. **SEN. NELSON** asked if the regulations were available on the internet. **Don Childress** said all the regulations were on the Department website. The regulations have to be made available to all hunters, and they

are distributed through the license agents. **Director Hagener** said a bill is being drafted to allow for the sale of advertising space in the regulations. **Don Childress** stated that all printing contracts are let through the State bid process.

DP519

Don Childress stated that DP519 was a request for increased spending authority in operations for migratory bird stamp implementation.

DP502

Don Childress said the request for a Coal Bed Methane Coordinator who would work with the industry to develop guidelines to mitigate the impact of coal bed methane extraction. **CHAIRMAN PATTISON** asked if FWP was coordinating its efforts with other agencies. **Don Childress** said the Department activity has been at the development stage. The staff has provided input on wildlife issues on an environmental impact statement (EIS) that is being prepared by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

REP. RIPLEY asked if the Department's efforts with wildlife species would duplicate work being done by other agencies. **Don Childress** said not all of the species are listed, but they would still warrant consideration.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 10}

SEN. TASH asked if the Tribes are contributing to the studies. **Don Childress** said there has been no interaction with the Tribes.

DP505

Don Childress said the an audit had recommended that the Department consider a study of the impact of weather on wildlife an upland bird populations. **SEN. BUTCHER** said the proposal looked like a total duplication of studies being done by universities all over the United States. **Don Childress** said the Department does not always have easy access to university studies that are as detailed as the information FWP would need. The Department does work closely with the Range Sciences Department at Montana State University (MSU).

CHAIRMAN PATTISON asked what type of operations would be funded by the \$7,000 requested in the DP. **Don Childress** said the initial efforts would include pulling together the information that is already available such as satellite imagery. **SEN. TASH** asked if the Division utilized the Natural Resource Information

System (NRIS). **Don Childress** said NRIS is an integral part of the efforts.

DP507

Don Childress said DP507 would restore the one-time-only (OTO) funding for black bear research. The research to document the populations size and densities is a long-term effort. When the Department completed the EIS they utilized criteria that was available from other states but had not been tested in Montana. The proposal would include DNA testing throughout the state.

CHAIRMAN PATTISON asked how long the program had been in place and how long the program would need to continue. **Don Childress** said the project started four years ago. The actual sampling of animals has been taking place for two years. The total length of the program would be somewhere between six and eight years.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 10 - 20}

CHAIRMAN PATTISON asked what has been determined so far. **Don Childress** said he would provide the Committee with a report on the project. A lot of volunteers work on this labor-intensive project. **REP. RIPLEY** asked how much had been spent on the grizzly bear sow and cubs that had been the focus of media attention. **Don Childress** said that between \$8,000 and \$10,000 had been spent.

DP510

Don Childress said that DP510 was a request for a \$40,000 adjustment to the base for the funds from the bighorn sheep auction. Funds will be used for transplanting sheep and for a research project in the Gallatin area. **SEN. BUTCHER** asked how much money the Department received from the sheep auction. **Don Childress** said the amount varies but in the last couple of years, the amount was around \$130,000. In response to questions from **SEN. BUTCHER**, he said that the areas where sheep are transplanted are not very conducive to predation by wolves. Sheep numbers in the Missouri Breaks are high.

REP. RIPLEY asked what the \$10,000 in rent was for. **Don Childress** said the rent was for helicopters. Private helicopters are used because the personnel have the expertise and equipment to handle the sheep. **SEN. BUTCHER** asked why all the proceeds from the auction are not used in the sheep programs. **Don Childress** said that only a certain number of sheep are available for transplant. Some of the funds are used for habitat. **SEN. BUTCHER** asked if the Department did any predator control to

increase sheep populations. **Don Childress** said if lions did become a threat to sheep populations, predator control would be a part of the program.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 30}

CHAIRMAN PATTISON asked how many hours it takes to fly and capture a bighorn sheep. **Don Childress** said the Division is trying to negotiate a flight contract is a flat rate for costs and then a rate per animal. **Glenn Erickson, FWP**, said the most recent contract was for \$350 per animal captured. Between 20 and 30 sheep are moved each year. **CHAIRMAN PATTISON** asked why populations were not controlled by increasing the number of permits in certain areas. **Don Childress** said the Department tries to balance the number of transplants and the number of hunting permits. The goal is to provide hunting opportunity and to augment smaller herds. If the increase is not approved, it would limit the number of sheep that are moved, and the money would remain in the account as the spending is restricted.

DP517

Don Childress said that DP517 is for \$550,000 in legislative contract authority (LCA). The amount is the same as what was approved in the last session. The funds are made available primarily from federal agencies. Projects funded in the past include bear monitoring, special surveys, and an elk study.

CHAIRMAN PATTISON asked for clarification of LCA and its use in the legislative process. **Gary Hamel** said that LCA provides a means for the legislature to appropriate additional federal funds that the Department anticipates receiving after the legislature adjourns.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 10}

Gary Hamel continued, stating that unlike budget amendments, the legislature does not have the opportunity to review LCA projects on an ongoing basis. He said he had presented a report showing the Department LCA funding and projects from the previous year.

Gary Hamel stated that through the budget amendment process, the legislature has the opportunity to review the amount and the purpose of the funding received after the legislative session. The LCA allows the agency to spend the funding without the routine notification. A good portion of FWP projects tend to be ongoing. The typical process would be to get those ongoing projects into HB2.

Gary Hamel said the Committee had several options. They could require the agency to include project duration into their annual report; require that all projects that remain ongoing for a specified period of time be included in HB2; require quarterly updates on the amounts spent with LCA; or eliminate LCA. He said, "By not approving LCA, the Department is not limited in its ability to spend the federal dollars; it just changes the characteristic in which they are able to spend the federal dollars." The funding would have to be done through the budget amendment process which is more typical of how state agencies approach spending of the federal authority.

SEN. BUTCHER said several DPs were requests for research projects and yet the Committee has no way of determining if the projects overlap with federal funding.

SEN. NELSON asked how SB304, the UGBHE program, was being administered by FWP. **Don Childress** said the Department has made a great deal of progress toward meeting the recommendations of the audit. The agency is taking a great deal of time with the rules process. Funds have been expended on advertising to encourage more participation in the program.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10 - 20}

Scott Birkenbuel, Codirector, Access Montana Outdoors (AMO), said the group would like the Committee to consider funding a position for a full-time Access Coordinator with FWP. People with disabilities in Montana are not participating in outdoor recreation to an extent equal to able-bodied individuals. Only about ten percent of the adult disabled populations purchase Conservation Licenses. The FWP Crossing the Barriers Committee handles many responsibilities related to disabled access and outdoor recreation. AMO feels one individual focused on the programs would be more effective.

CHAIRMAN PATTISON asked Scott Birkenbuel for details on the number of disabled adults who purchase Conservation Licenses.

Scott Birkenbuel replied that realistically the majority of disabled people can and should be able to hunt in Montana. Hunters, ranchers and guides participate in a program in Wyoming which has enabled even the most severely disabled get out in the field and hunt safely. FWP can present the disabled with the opportunity by having the licensing and permitting available. He said he would provide CHAIRMAN PATTISON with exact figures on the number of disabled people in Montana and nature and extent of their disabilities.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 24}

REP. MUSGROVE asked what AMO felt a full-time coordinator would do that is not being accomplished by the Department at this time. **Scott Birkenbuel** said that having a designated advocate within the Department would focus the responsibilities in the office of one individual. In the last five years, since the inception of AMO, the number of disabled Montanans buying Disabled Conservation Licenses has doubled.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 24 - 30}

Ralph Martin, Codirector, AMO, said by bringing the various responsibilities into one office, programs already in place would be revitalized. This position could coordinate information on programs that exist in other agencies such as those developed by the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Forest Service (USFS), and the Division of State Lands.

REP. MUSGROVE commented on the complexity of the issues and stated that he hoped the Committee could find a means to help the greatest number of people. **REP. RIPLEY** asked if AMO had updated statistics on disabled recreation. **Scott Birkenbuel** said the population of disabled is increasing slightly as the population ages.

SEN. TASH said it was his understanding that a disabled person can have an able-bodied person assist them when they hunt. **Scott Birkenbuel** said that nonambulatory hunters are required to have an able-bodied person with them when they hunt. On USFS or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property, the assistant is not allowed to hunt, carry a rifle or dispatch wounded game. Different agencies enforcing differing regulations make it difficult for disabled hunters.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 7}

Scott Birkenbuel said that FWP has established regulations and special permits which allows for someone assisting a disabled person to hunt in some areas. **SEN. TASH** said that it was his understanding that some areas are set aside for disabled hunters and that assistants can hunt with the disabled in those areas. **Scott Birkenbuel** said that it is at the discretion of the ranger to allow the assistant to hunt.

CHAIRMAN PATTISON asked if the State was hampering the disabled sportsmen's efforts to get out and hunt and fish. **Scott**

Birkenbuel said the State is not hampering the disabled sportsmen, but AMO does not believe that the development of opportunity is moving forward. **CHAIRMAN PATTISON** asked how AMO felt the State could enhance opportunities for the disabled sportsman. **Scott Birkenbuel** said AMO felt that in the area of Block Management all landowner participants should be asked if they will provide people with disabilities on their land. Disabled people have to get permission to use the landowners' road systems because Block Management areas are limited to walk-in access.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 7 - 18}

Harry Kraft, AMO, commented that in some areas of Montana, private landowners are more agreeable to having disabled hunters on their land. In some areas, outfitters are granted consideration denied to the disabled. Disabled people are being denied access to the natural resources of Montana. **CHAIRMAN PATTISON** commented that as a private landowner he attempts to provide a quality opportunity for disabled Montana sportsmen to hunt on his land. As a private landowner, he wants to maintain control of how that hunting is managed.

Harry Kraft said he often has to travel a long distance to find land open to disabled hunters. His love of the outdoors motivates him to search out those areas. A full-time coordinator with FWP would make those efforts easier.

Arnold Tarheim, AMO, said that a centralized source of information would provide a great deal of assistance to disabled sportsmen. **Sandra Kraft, AMO**, said that the handicapped need access to those activities in which they are capable of participating.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 18 - 25}

REP. MUSGROVE commented that the Department website could be a central source of access information for the disabled in Montana. **Ralph Martin, AMO**, said that FWP and the Legislature have been very proactive in helping the disabled sportsmen in Montana. A full-time coordinator for disabled sportsmen would keep the effort focused.

SEN. TASH asked Alan Charles, Block Management Coordinator, FWP, to comment on the access issues presented by AMO. Private landowners are concerned about hunting pressure and land management issues.

Alan Charles said the Department has a consistent policy that landowners are asked if they wish to provide opportunities for hunters with disabilities. Those areas are highlighted in the Block Management tabloids. Contacts are negotiated with block management participants to develop ranch rules and hunter management systems which include accommodating hunters with special needs. A Block Management participant landowner can issue a special permit to a disabled hunter to drive on roads. This can cause complaints as other hunters are not aware of why some people are allowed to drive on areas generally restricted as walk-in only.

Director Hagener said that the Department provides services for the disabled sportsmen in Montana, but FWP is aware that better coordination of programs is needed. FWP is working with federal agencies to streamline the efforts.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 25 - 30}

Glenn Erickson, Division Administrator, Field Services Division, FWP, said the Division includes the Landowners/Sportsmen Relations, lands functions, design and construction projects, and the aircraft unit.

Glenn Erickson said the Landowners/Sportsmen Relations emphasizes improved communications between the landowners and sportsmen and the Department. The units handle the hunter access enhancement program which includes Block Management, Access Montana, and special access projects. The Governor-appointed Private Lands Public Wildlife Council has had some influence on all three areas.

{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 9}

Glenn Erickson said the Council has recently focused their efforts on licensing and sunset legislation that involve access issues. The Council did review a Department-proposed collaborative community problem-solving approach of elk management.

Glenn Erickson said Block Management provides access to private lands and involves a budget of about \$5 million. Over 1,100 landowners participate in the program which includes over 8.8 million acres of land.

Glenn Erickson said Access Montana addresses hunting access on public lands. The program is new and has a budget of about \$200,000 from the Hunter Access Enhancement fee. Projects

include providing maps of public lands. This effort has served to decrease private land trespass violations. The special access project includes coordinators for special hunt areas and efforts to increase participation in the UGBHE program.

Glenn Erickson stated that Livestock Loss Reimbursement provides compensation to ranchers who incur livestock loss as a result hunting activity. Compensation is also available for game damage. The program varies from \$250,000 a year to \$527,000 depending on weather conditions, distribution of animals and hunting pressures.

Glenn Erickson said the Landowner Technical Assistance is an outreach program that addresses weed control and other issues. The focus includes cooperation with neighbors on land management issues. Technical assistance is provided on fencing, grazing management and other issues.

{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 9 - 16}

SEN. SHEA asked if the Livestock Loss program addressed the responsibility of the hunter. **Glenn Erickson** said in most cases the violator is not known. **SEN. BUTCHER** asked if the Livestock Loss program was separate from the Predation Compensation program. **Alan Charles** said that annually the Department pays about 15 claims when it is determined the animal was shot and the loss is attributable to the landowner allowing public access for hunting. The Department cooperates with the Department of Livestock inspector to make the determination.

REP. RIPELY asked if the claim would be paid if the hunter was on the land illegally. **Alan Charles** replied that if the identity of the violator could be determined, the individual would be cited. The perpetrator does not have to be identified for the landowner to be compensated. If the landowner prevails in an civil action, the Department would be reimbursed for any compensation they had paid. Landowners who do not allow pubic hunting are not compensated for losses attributable to hunters.

{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 16 - 23}

Glenn Erickson gave a description of licensing funding sources for some of the habitat programs. The license year begins on March 1, so the flow of license dollars is not current with the fiscal year.

Glenn Erickson said the Lands Unit focuses on acquisition, property taxes and leases, and land records management. In each

of the last two bienniums the unit has completed 16 to 18 fee titles, five to nine leases and easements, and six to eight disposals. The Department pays property taxes in the same manner as other landowners. Parks properties are subject to SIDs and RIDs.

{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 23 - 27}

REP. MUSGROVE asked for the duration of conservation easement contracts. **Glenn Erickson** replied that the contracts are for perpetuity. **SEN. BUTCHER** asked if the Department managed the easements into perpetuity. **Glenn Erickson** said the Division views an easement as a living document. The contract demands ongoing management to accommodate the landowner's concerns and to maintain the value of the property. **REP. RIPLEY** asked how many FTE work with conservation easements. **Glenn Erickson** said the Lands Unit is comprised of four FTE.

{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 27 - 30}

Glenn Erickson said that records management involves monitoring of the easements from the beginning negotiations to the current status of the land. The Design and Construction Bureau provides professional design and development engineering for FWP construction projects. Capital projects run between \$6 million and \$15 million each biennium. Currently, 142 projects are in process.

{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 5}

Glenn Erickson said the larger capital projects can include construction of regional headquarters, fishing access sites and fish hatcheries. The design, contract, bids, and construction of large projects can take several bienniums to complete. Any project over \$75,000 has to be contracted out. **SEN. BUTCHER** asked if FWP was responsible for the historic markers along Montana's highways. **Glenn Erickson** said the Department of Transportation provides those signs.

{Tape: 4; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 5 - 9}

Glenn Erickson said the Crossing the Barriers Committee advises the Department on projects related to hunting, fishing and recreation activities for disabled sportsmen. One subcommittee deals with licensing issues. Regions are working to set up special seasons and tags for disabled persons. **SEN. BUTCHER** asked if special damage hunts could be established exclusively for disabled hunters. **Glenn Erickson** said the Department would

consider such possibilities. The Block Management booklet does indicate areas where special consideration is provided for handicapped hunters. Part of the Department website is dedicated to Crossing the Barriers.

{Tape: 4; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 9 - 13}

Glenn Erickson said the Aircraft Unit was responsible for one twin engine plane, four helicopters and three Super Cubs. About two-thirds of the survey work is contracted with private pilots. The internal rates are cheaper than the rental rates. Wildlife surveys and marking projects require the use of the aircraft.

Director Hagener replied to a series of questions from SEN. BUTCHER regarding the aircraft and their use.

{Tape: 4; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 13 - 16}

Gary Hamel said he would present the Committee with a summary of all State agency aircraft, its use and the cost of same. **Glenn Erickson** said the aircraft are used for transporting in fish planting projects in about 90 high-mountain lakes each year.

Glenn Erickson said that operations makes up the major portion of the Division budget. A large percentage of that spending deals with the hunter access enhancement projects with most of the funding derived from the variable priced licenses.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12 P.M.

REP. JEFF PATTISON, Chairman

ELAINE G. OLSEN, Secretary

JP/EGO

EXHIBIT (jnh19aad)